

REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed March 28, 2003, are the objection to the Abstract and disclosure, and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. It is noted that there are no rejections over art currently being made.

A marked-up copy of the Abstract with changes is provided herewith. Thus, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. With respect to the objection to the disclosure, the patent number at page 13 has been deleted, along with the superfluous text in the abstract. Thus, it is submitted that this issue is also moot.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, the Examiner is sincerely thanked for his careful review of the claims, and numerous helpful suggestions. The vast majority of the suggestions have been adopted, and it is believed that the claims now fully satisfy the requirements of the statute. However, should the Examiner have any further specific suggestions, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned.

With respect to the specific amendments made, it is believed that the majority of the amendments are self-explanatory and, in view of the numerous number of amendments in response to the Examiner's thorough commentary, the record will not be burdened by a discussion of each amendment at this point. Overall, however, it is submitted that the scope of the claims has not been changed, either literally or for purposes of the doctrine of equivalents, by the clarifying amendments made herein. However, a few comments are believed necessary for clarification.

With respect to the discussion, for example, in claim 4, of means for communication of the various fluids, attention is directed to the specification at page 28 discussing the groups of fluid and the substantially concentric grooves F,R,E and S which represent such means. Moreover, attention is directed to the discussion of ports 115 and 116, discussed in detail at page 29 of the specification. It is believed that claim 4, which refers to the structures, is amply clear.

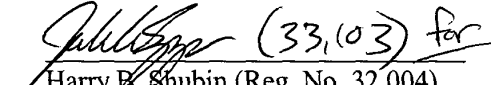
Finally, claim 18 has been rejected because it fails to recite the location of the "other end" of the bypass line. In fact, it is submitted that the claim is not incomplete, but recites an important aspect of the invention involving the bypass line conducting fluid outside of the

enclosure housing the adsorbent beds. Thus, the claim is complete without specifying further processing of the fluid extracted therefrom, and indeed, the bypass line may be directed to various places in various embodiments of the invention. Compare claims 1, 14 and 11. It is submitted that the claim is clear on its face and no further modification is necessary.

In conclusion, the claims of the application are submitted to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT

INSTITUT FRANCAIS DU PETROLE

**SYSTEM FOR INJECTING A DIVERTED FLUID IN A SIMULATED MOVING
BED SEPARATION PROCESS**

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ABSTRACT

Device and process for separating at least one compound from a mixture in a simulated moving bed, comprising:

- an enclosure comprising several adsorbent beds, two adsorbent beds being separated by a fluid distribution and extraction place (Pi), the plate comprising one or more distribution, mixing and/or extraction panels, comprising a chamber (Ci),
- main fluid delivery (4) and extraction (2) lines,
- several secondary fluid extraction or injection lines (10, 11, 12, 13, Ti),
- a bypass circuit communicating a distribution plate with a bypass line,
- means (14, Voi,j, 20) communicating a least one chamber (Ci) with at least one bypass line (Li,j),
- at least one of the ends of a bypass line communicates with a zone Ri, R'I of an adsorbent bed, said zone being distinct from a distribution chamber (Ci) and another end is connected to said chamber (Ci).